DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES
California Children's Services (CCS) Advisory Group
October 27, 2021
11:00am – 3:00pm

MEETING SUMMARY

CCS Advisory Group Members Attending (by webinar): Allison Gray, Ann Kinkor, Ann Kuhns, Anthony Magit, MD, Carlos Lerner, Carol Miller, MD, Dena Davis, Francesca Peterson, Jennifer Mockus, Kristen Dimou, Lael Lambert, Lara Khouri, Laurie Soman, Lianna Chen, Michelle Gibbons, Pip Marks, Steven Barkley, Susan Skotzke, Teresa Jurado, Whitney Clark

CCS Advisory Group Members Not Attending: Maya Altman, Michael Harris

DHCS Staff Presenting: Michelle Baass, Susan Philip, Autumn Boylan, Alan Roush, Palav Babaria, Oksana Meyer, Eugene Stevenson, Rachelle Weiss, Richard Nelson, Sabrina Atoyebi, Cheryl Walker, Michael Luu

Guest Presenter: None

Public Attending: 169

CCS Advisory Group Materials: Agenda and Slide Deck

I. Welcome, Housekeeping and Agenda

Autumn Boylan, Assistant Deputy Director for Integrated Systems, Health Care Delivery Systems

Boylan welcomed members and opened the meeting.

II. Director's Update

Michelle Baass, DHCS Director

Baass shared information about the following topics:

- Official launch of CalAIM initiatives in January 2022, including the implementation of Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports (formerly ILOS)
- DHCS is working closely with CMS on the approval of the 1915(b) and 1115 waivers
- Statewide quality strategy focusing on population health and health equity strategies for improving quality of care and outcomes for beneficiaries.
- The ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and the extension of the public health emergency to at least January 2022
- DHCS' telehealth stakeholder workgroup activities
- Improving transparency and data sharing for the CCS program

Summary of Questions and Comments:

- None

III. Medi-Cal Rx Update

Alan Roush, Pharmacy Benefits Division

Roush shared updates about the following:

- Beneficiary notices
- Pharmacy and prescriber outreach and education
- Partner readiness
- CCS county program access
- CCS Services Authorization Request (SAR) transition and 180-day transition

Summary of Questions and Comments:

- Request to share the surveys DHCS sent out regarding provider awareness

IV. CalAIM: Enhanced Care Management (ECM)

Oksana Meyer, MPA, Managed Care Quality and Monitoring Division

Meyer sharing updates about the following:

- Overview of ECM benefit and the ECM populations of focus
- Children/youth population of focus will go-live in July 2023. This includes children/youth enrolled in CCS and CCS Whole Child Model.

- DHCS will engage stakeholders (including members of the CCS Advisory Group) to obtain input regarding design of ECM for children/youth
- Overview of Community Supports (formerly called In Lieu of Services)
- Community Supports are optional for Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs)
  - MCPs have preliminarily elected Community Supports to start in January 2022
  - MCPs can expand/drop Community Supports every 6 months, with DHCS approval
- Summary of published state guidance:
  - ECM All Plan Letter (APL) 21-012
  - ECM Policy Guide
  - Community Supports Policy Guide

Summary of Questions and Comments:

- Members expressed concern about timeline on networks for CCS population
- Questions about CCS population overlap, including:
  - Numbers of children/youth that are in earlier populations of focus (e.g., individuals and families experiencing homelessness)
  - Numbers of children/youth in Whole Person Care pilots
  - What is the overlap with these populations and children/youth in CCS
- Question about whether DHCS plans to establish a children/youth ECM workgroup
  - DHCS committed to sharing more information about the stakeholder process
- Suggestion for DHCS to work with probation and County Offices of Education regarding incarceration populations
- Question about whether Community Supports are available for CCS youth who are transitioning out of CCS, transition can induce anxiety

V. CalAIM: Enhancing County Oversight and Monitoring

Michael Luu, Integrated Systems of Care Division

Luu shared updates about the following:

- Electronic budget submission portal
- Plan and Fiscal Guidelines updates – to be released to counties via email
- DHCS is establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) monthly workgroup starting in January 2022
  - Purpose of the workgroup is to consult with counties and affected stakeholders to develop and draft the DHCS/CCS counties MOU template

- Workgroup will include counties, associations, CCS Advisory Group representatives, family members, etc.
- Goals of the MOU established in the CalAIM Trailer Bill enacted into law in 2021 through AB133 (Welfare and Institutions Code section 14184.600(b))

Summary of Questions and Comments:

- Suggestion to capture, in the MOU, data collection/reporting requirements for visits/referrals to Special Care Centers

VI. Medical Therapy Programs – State Coordination Efforts

Autumn Boylan, Assistant Deputy Director for Integrated Systems, Health Care Delivery Systems

Boylan shared updates about the following:

- DHCS reached out to California Department of Education (CDE) regarding state collaboration on issues related to Medical Therapy Programs (MTPs)
- DHCS is hopeful that, although CDE was unable to participate in today's session, we will be able to re-establish a better mechanism for effective collaboration between DHCS and CDE
- DHCS requested input from CCS Advisory Group members regarding priorities/issues related to MTPs and the state's Interagency Agreement

Summary of Questions and Comments:

- Members expressed concern about the lack of state-level coordination and the delays related to implementing an updated Interagency Agreement
- Suggestion to solicit input on the Interagency Agreement from the State Commission on Special Education
- Members expressed concern about the "great deal of tension" between state and local education/health partners
- Suggestion to include key partners in stakeholder outreach, including but not limited to: Family Resource Centers, Parent Training and Information Centers, CA Teachers Association, CA School Nurses Association, Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA) directors
- Discussion about cross-over issues with juvenile justice/alternative education partners – include stakeholders with direct responsibilities in this area
- Members requested DHCS commitment to post an outline of the Interagency Agreement
  - DHCS will share the outline once it has been developed

- Discussion about a federal complaint sent to DOJ regarding special education and related services (unknown if MTP services were included)
- Reminder that the CCS Executive Committee and Medical Therapy Program Advisory Committee (MTPAC) put together a guiding document
- Potential Interagency Agreement topics, include but are not limited to:
  - Title 2 issues
  - Defining state/county/MCP responsibilities
  - Streamline information sharing
  - For CDE, outline Individual Education Plan (IEP) portals, not know if MTP services are included in IEPs

VII. DHCS Quality Monitoring
CCS and WCM Dashboard
Eugene Stevenson, PhD, Managed Care Quality and Monitoring Division

Stevenson presented an outline of the combined CCS and Whole Child Model (WCM) Dashboard

VIII. Overview of CMS Child Core Set Measures
Rachelle Weiss, Data Management and Analytics Division

Weiss presented an overview of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Child Core Set Measures and DHCS reporting responsibilities

IX. Quality and Health Equity Strategy
Palav Babaria, MD, MHS, Chief Quality Office, Quality and Population Health Management

Babaria presented an overview of DHCS' Quality and Health Equity Strategy, including DHCS' quality and health equity goals and vision for 2025. CCS-specific considerations include:

- What opportunities are there to create CCS-focused efforts within larger DHCS initiatives (e.g., CalAIM Population Health Management, Health Equity Roadmap, etc.)?
- What is the best way to incorporate clinical metrics into the CCS/WCM Dashboard? Can we leverage applicable core set measures while also identifying CCS-specific measures?
- How do we break down silos and ensure alignment across programs (e.g. CCS vs. Whole Child Model vs. Behavioral Health vs. dental)?
- Other topics for advancing clinical outcomes and health equity within CCS?

Summary of Questions and Comments:

- Comment about DHCS' [quality and equity] goals - they incredibly important but very focused on primary care; suggestion to focus also on specialty care
- Members asked the following questions:
  - On an existential level, what is DHCS' vision for a successful CCS program?
  - How do we measure success for CCS specifically?
  - What is the theme for children?
  - Do we have a definition of quality and equity that is particular to children/youth and also to CCS?
- Members expressed concern that we [collectively] are "teaching to the test"
- Reminder that Title V Assessment included core performance measures
- Comment that counties have developed their own quality strategies
- Suggestion to operationalize measures specific to CCS population
- CRISS provided detailed comments on the CCS/WCM dashboards
- Question about status of analysis/ability to measure patient experience, which is key to measuring racism, poverty, lack of transportation, etc.
- Discussion about measuring whether WCM is working

X. CCS Program Letters

Sabrina Atoyebi and Cheryl Walker, MD,
Integrated Systems of Care Division

Atoyebi shared updates about recently/soon to be published CCS program letters, Numbered Letters and CCS Standards, including:

- Inter-County Transfer Policy
- Scope of Nurse Practitioners in Special Care Centers
- Trikafta
- Authorization of Dental Services (for public comment)
- Botulinum Toxin (for public comment)
- Palivizumab for Immunoprophylaxis of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection during 2021-2022
- Update for CCS Information Notice 21-03: Palivizumab for Immunoprophylaxis of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection during 2021-2022
- Allocation Letters FY 2021-22 CCS, Child Health Disability Prevention Program (CHDP), CHDP Lead Prevention Program, and Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care
- Client Therapy Record
- NICU (Regional, Community, Intermediate)

- Aerodigestive
- Cardiac
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Endocrine
- Metabolic
- Pulmonary

Summary of Questions and Comments:

- California Children's Hospital Association sent a comment letter on the CCS Program Letter: Scope of Nurse Practitioners in Special Care Centers

XI. CCS Advisory Group Subcommittee

Autumn Boylan, Assistant Deputy Director for Integrated Systems, Health Care Delivery Systems

Boylan shared updates from the CCS Advisory Group Subcommittee, including posting of the Advisory Group charter, welcome letter, and plans for the next subcommittee meeting to discuss Advisory Group composition.

XII. Open Discussion

CCS Advisory Group Members

- Members expressed concerns about recruitment of Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and DME vendors
- Discussion about Children's Regional Integrated Service System (CRISS) issue papers on WCM

XIII. Public Comment

- A member of the public shared information about the CA Association of Medical Product Suppliers/DME
- A member of the public asked about mandatory enrollment of certain groups under CalAIM
- Question about whether MCPs, with established relationships with CCS patients, can be ECM providers
- Suggestion to include discussion about "role of the MOU" in MOU workgroup meetings
- A member of the public expressed concerns about school closures and impact on MTP units